

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 20 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Keefer in the May 12, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Susaki et al. (Susaki), U.S. Patent No. 6,189,032, in view of Shitama, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0110123. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a communication device with a controller that automatically accepts an operation according to the request every time that it is determined that the request came in from the LAN; and allows a user of the communication device to determine whether the operation according to the request is accepted or rejected every time that it is determined that the request came in from the WAN. Claims 11 and 20 call for similar features.

As discussed during the personal interview, Susaki's col. 9, line 38 - col. 10, line 7 discuss using a service approval request processor 206 that determines if approval is required based on a process control rule. Accordingly, even if Susaki was combined with Shitama in order to suggest a WAN and enhanced security (which Applicants do not admit would have been obvious), some of the requests that come in from the LAN would not be automatically accepted (see for example, Fig. 5, service identifier A, user authority level 1). Therefore, as agreed during the personal interview, the combination of Susaki and Shitama fails to automatically accept an operation according to the request every time that it is determined that the request came in from the LAN as called for by claims 1, 11 and 20.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Susaki in view of Shitama and Joubert et al. (Joubert), U.S. Patent No. 6,101,616, claims 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Susaki in view of Shitama and Allen et al. (Allen), U.S. Publication No. 2003/0041333, and claims 10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Susaki in view of Shitama and Boehmke et al. (Boehmke), U.S. Publication No. 2002/0126822. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of Joubert, Allen and Boehmke overcome the deficiencies of Susaki and Shitama as applied to independent claims 1, 11 and 20. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 11 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shitama in view of Kimura, U.S. Publication No. 2001/0048744. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Kimura fails to overcome the deficiencies of Shitama because Kimura authenticates all requests (paragraph [0017] for example).

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 14, 2008

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